

Send us your writings, artwork, feedback and rants!
Email: radicalyouth@enzyme.org.nz

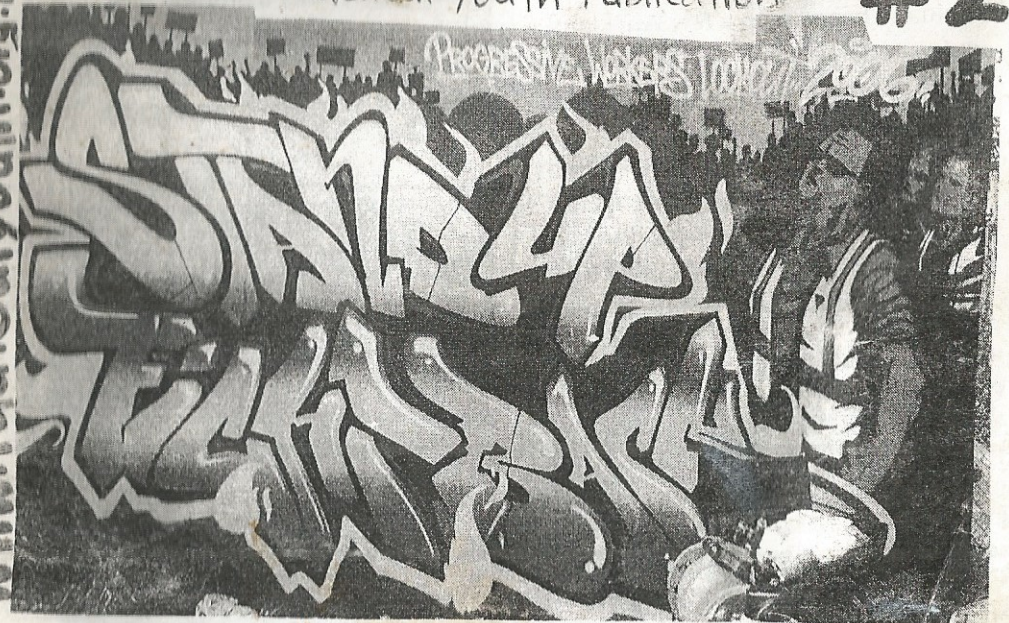
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IF YOU'RE NOT OUTRAGED

YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION!

A Radical Youth Publication #2

www.radicalyouth.org.nz



INSIDE:

LOCKOUT ENDS

DROPPING OUT

YOUR RIGHTS
WITH THE POLICE

YOUTH
RATES

"HEY,"

STILL SUCK!

SAVE HAPPY VALLEY

WHO WE ARE



Radical Youth is a diverse group of young people from across Aotearoa who are working for social change. We joined together to create spaces for youth to learn from each other, support each other, organise and live creatively. We are a community of equals, who respect each other and each other's opinion. We originally began with a few Auckland school students who found themselves confronted by a silence all around them. It was the silence of our friends, family, neighbours and communities to poverty, oppression, war, greed, ecological destruction and injustice.

Everywhere, from popular culture to our schools and workplaces, we are told to sit in silence, to consume in silence and to work in silence. Those who live in silence are powerless to prevent injustice. We call out to humanity to listen to those who have been pushed to the corners, herded into prisons and forced into sweatshops. We ask the youth of Aotearoa to speak up for those who cannot speak and those who no one listens too. The silence of some will deafen the screams of others. The rulers of an unconscious civilisation fear more than anything else the words, "Another world is possible."



We don't want you to sign useless petitions or give a monthly donation. We want you to come along to participate in the creation of a world based on peace, liberty, solidarity and equality. Join us! www.radicalyouth.org.nz

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Upcoming Events

Protest Against Weapons Conference at Te Papa 17-18, Wellington.

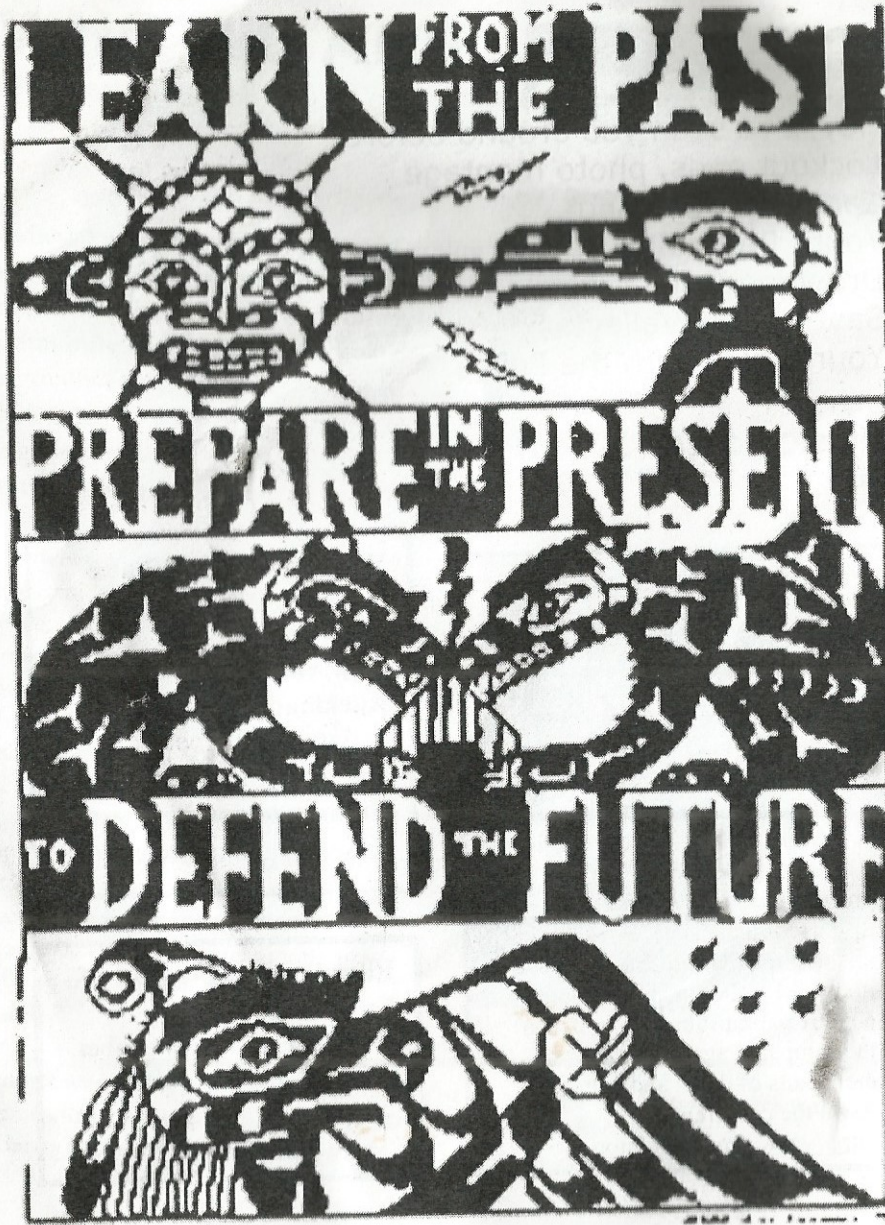
For the fourth year in a row, arms manufacturers from all over the world are meeting at Te Papa - so called 'Our Place' - on 17 and 18 October 2006. These companies - like Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons maker - are directly profiting from the US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. We should not sit back and let these men trade in human suffering. The weapons conference must be stopped. Join the campaign against these merchants of death and help shut down the conference.
<http://www.peacewellinton.tk>

Women Unite to Take Back the Night! 28 October, 7pm Aotea Square, Auckland.

A witches-themed rally and march for women and children to combat violence against women.

Film Screening: End of Suburbia:

Wednesday 27th September.
iSPACE level 4 of Kate Edgar Student Commons at Auckland Uni @ 3pm.



Hey,

I've seen you around before. I've seen you at parties. I've seen you at school. I've seen you on the street and even in libraries. I've seen you everywhere and I always wondered if you knew what's happening, what's happening to people like you and me, right here and overseas. Or what's happening to our Earth, to the animals, plants and insects that depend on it. I wondered what you would do, if you knew.

I wondered if you knew about the one billion children who live in extreme poverty, if you wondered what their names were or their dreams and aspirations. If you knew that one in three women in the world has been raped or sexually abused, have you wondered about how their lives might be if it had been prevented? What about the melting ice caps, the starving polar bears and rising sea levels that will drown entire nations? The collapsing ecosystem? The billions of animals that are imprisoned in factory farms to be slaughtered for consumption? The violence of foreign occupation in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, West Papua etc? Or the billions of dollars in profit corporations make through war, oppression and exploitation? The genocide and racist treatment of indigenous people through colonization and economic globalisation? The land that was stolen from Maori people or the Treaty terms the Crown violated?

I wondered if you knew that industrial capitalist society is inherently unsustainable? That the gap between the rich and poor is continually increasing? That the greed for power and profit of those who rule the world is going to lead to our destruction?

I wondered if you knew that you and I could both help to change the state of the world, starting from here in Aotearoa. I wondered if you knew that we are all capable of organizing, empowering others and ourselves to create a society based on community, justice, peace and liberty.

If you were aware of all the problems in our world, have you just accepted that "this is just the way it is, there's nothing I can do about it"? I hear the same rhetoric all the time. "There's nothing you can do to change it. Just accept it and go on with your life. Get a good education. Go to parties, get wasted. Get a job. Buy stuff. Go to university. Get a career. Buy a car. Get married. Buy a house. Settle down. Have children. Watch TV. Go to work. Don't stop working. Eat. Shit. Die."

"Don't worry. Be happy."

I wondered why people always tell me to ignore the reality. Sometimes they try to patronize me and tell me that I'm too idealistic, or I'm too young to understand how the world works. I think they're afraid, they're scared of the truth because it knocks down the very foundation they've based their entire life on. We need to get past this fear and denial, maybe then will we, as youth, be able to affect positive social change to make sure we can have a better future, or any future at all.

Youth all over the world are becoming more politically active. The youth uprising in France used direct action - occupations and strike action to stop the CPE law that would make young workers under 25 years old completely disposable in the first two years of employment. Their rights were under attack but they fought back. And they won. In Chile, thousands of students occupied their schools to fight for free education. These actions by young people are happening all the time, all over the world. Even in Auckland 1000 high school students walked out of school to abolish discriminatory youth rates. These were all initiatives made by young people, we can be a very powerful force for change if we unite and act collectively.

We are only this privileged today in this country because of social movements in the past. People died for the 8-hour working day, for the vote, for black civil rights, for national independence and for equal rights for women. People are still dying to retain their humanity, for freedom, for self-determination, for justice and equality. Although there's still a long way to go, we have to remember that these rights that we have had to be fought for. They were achieved through mass movements and direct action. No politicians or bosses ever gave us any of it.

To understand the present, we need to acknowledge the past. Although history only dates back to a few thousand years, humans have existed for over 100,000 years. For about 99.99% of human existence, we have lived in a state of nature. We lived without private property, without states or governments, police, mass-scale war, nuclear weapons, prisons, factories or capitalism. I'm not saying we should all return to that, but it shows that **this is not the way it's always been.**

Another excuse people always have for their apathy and inaction is, "it's human nature to be selfish and greedy." I think one of the most interesting things about being human is that we have potential to be whatever we want. Humans can be greedy and selfish, but we can also be co-operative, compassionate or loving. I believe that the reason why people tend to be individualistic and selfish is because the economic system we live under - capitalism - rewards that kind of behaviour.

The most privileged and powerful people in our society are those who are greedy and selfish. How do you think they got to be that rich or powerful? Most of the time wealth is gained by exploiting other people, whether it's exploiting their labour, fear, insecurities or their homeland, it's from the suffering and oppression of vulnerable groups.

The most peaceful and co-operative human societies were the ones that rewarded sharing and co-operation. These societies existed, and they still do in some places but their survival is under threat because of Western culture's imperialist, racist and violent tendencies. But it's completely possible to live without poverty, war and oppression. We're all human and we have a choice - to work for the benefit of all people or a privileged minority?

It's our world but through violence they took it away
Took dignity, happiness, pride.
They took all the colours and changed them to grey
With the bodies of millions that died
They destroy real meaning through their stupid games
Make life a trial of fear
They destroy what values we have with their aims,
Make us feel it's wrong if we care." - Crass, 80s anarcho-punk band

Well we do care, and resistance is everywhere. People are rising up and fighting back all over the globe, you won't be alone. As young people, we are the ones who are going to inherit the world soon, and we need to reclaim the future for the people. Join us in the movement to create a better world. A world without poverty, war, oppression, environmental degradation, animal abuse, sexism, racism or classes. We can do this!



Maybe next time I see you, it will be on the streets protesting, at organizing meetings, at a strike or a picket, union meetings, at peace workshops, blockades, occupations, community gardens or just hanging out at a benefit gig.

Peace, love and revolution,
MZ

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Lockout ends

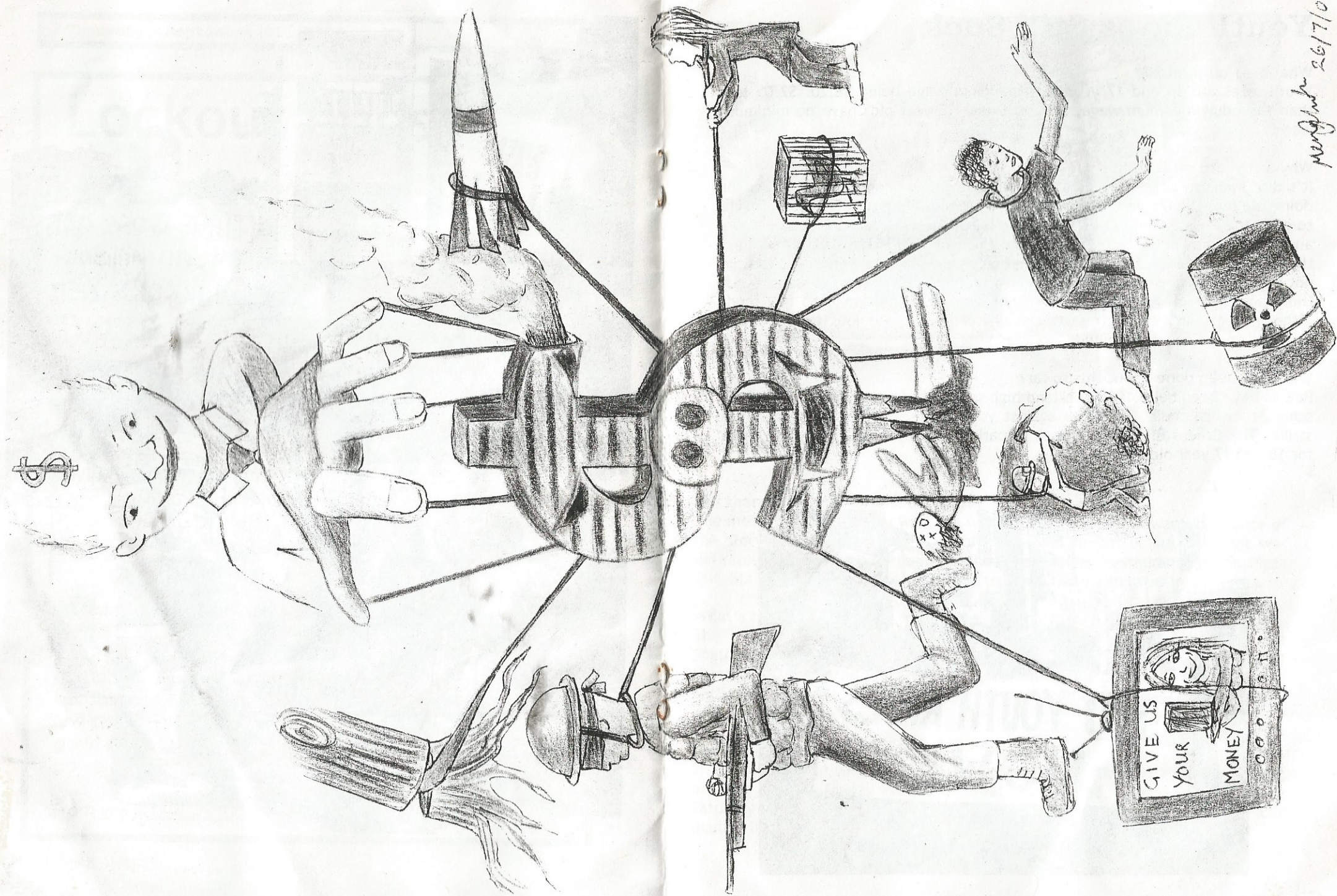
The lockout of supermarket distribution workers has ended with workers and Progressive Enterprise coming to a settlement. The settlement came after workers had been locked out for a month. Under the settlement the lowest paid workers get a 19.7% pay rise. Workers achieved one of their key aims - pay parity across the country. This has been described as one of the biggest actions of our generation and has drawn unions together like I have never experienced.

On the news tonight there was a long piece centered on a locked out family. The impact of the lock out got to the point where that family could not afford to feed their kids anymore. Overall the media have been quite sympathetic. As part of the collective agreement Progressive are providing interest free loans of \$1000 to workers who are struggling to make ends meet.

The damage to Progressives wrought by this action would run into the tens of millions of dollars and it will take the brand a while to recover from weeks of half-filled and empty shelves. This was an attempt by a multinational company to deny workers a chance for collective bargaining, a company that thought it could out last its low paid workers. They were wrong and eventually they gave in to the workers' demands because there was power in the union.

From www.aucklandsburning.blogspot.com





received 26/7/06

Youth Rates Still Suck

What are youth rates?

Youth rates are 16 and 17 year olds minimum wage being \$8.20. \$2.05 less than the adult minimum wage, \$10.25. Under 16 year olds have no minimum wage.

Why are youth rates a big deal?

It's discrimination on the basis of age because young people are paid less for doing the same work. However, youth rates are a small part of a wider struggle to get people who work in New Zealand a better deal. Not having secure hours and a low minimum wage are also part of this campaign. These are three main things that make New Zealand an increasingly hard place to work in. These are not problems professionals face, but everybody can't be a professional. If there were no supermarket workers then we wouldn't be able to buy food. Although we didn't have to go to university to do these jobs they are still essential to our country running.

What has been done about this so far?

Rallies have been held. 1000 Auckland high school students walked out of their school to voice their opposition against youth rates. Workers have gone on strike. The Greens Bill has been put to parliament to abolish the youth rates for 16 and 17 year olds.



Has there been any difference made?

The media had a field day with the walkout. Every network wanted a piece of the story the reaction from a lot of media was negative. But the heat was definitely turned up on parliament. The following day Restaurant Brands (Pizza Hut, Starbucks, KFC) signed a contract to phase out youth rates in its stores.

What's happening now?

The National Distribution Union's supermarkets campaign (see: Shelfrespect.org). The McDonalds Campaign (Unite). If you work for one of these outlets join the union and get involved in the campaigns. In pressuring parliament Radical Youth are going to hold a picket outside Helen Clarks office.

How do I get involved?

Well if you've got any ideas feel free to come to a Radical Youth organising meeting at the Trades Hall (147 Great North Road, Grey Lynn) on every Saturday at 3pm. Email radicalyouth@enzyme.org.nz to subscribe to our mailing list.

Dropping out

By John

School is *not* a place for learning, it's a place where we are babysat until working age and taught to do what we are told. For the first 18 years or more of our lives we are told where and when to sit. We have to ask to go for a shit and we are taught to rate each other based on things that have nothing to do with reality. We are taught to dress the same and told to act the same. Individuality, creativity and freedom are treated as "misbehavior" and punished with detentions, suspensions or expulsions. Those of us that have a problem with being told what to do, those of us that want something more than the racist whitewashed lies we are taught in history, are told that we have ADHD, or Problems with Authority and are drugged into submission.

If we are to change the way this world is run, we must change the way youth are taught. Classrooms, teachers and bullshit hierarchies must all be abolished. Around the world there is a movement of "free schools" where youth decide what is taught. Teachers are there when young people want them. These schools and dozens of other types of schools like them are producing intelligent young people who have not been forced to learn and who will not blindly do as they are told.

For many young people school does not teach what they want to learn at the pace they want to learn. Most of what you learn at school is completely inapplicable to the real world. School is primarily about getting people to do what they are told to do, not about teaching what you want or what you need to know.



For many dropping out is a way of standing up against a controlling system and deciding to make their own decisions about education and life. Others are simply bored and frustrated in the school environment and learn better in another environment. I dropped out because I found the material being taught to me boring and unchallenging. I came to realise how compulsory education is used to make us accept the hierarchies in our workplaces, families and lives.

What are the alternatives?

For a start, there is deschooling or homeschooling which was how I was taught until high school. In this model, students of any age are allowed to learn at home provided they receive a balanced education that covers the general school curriculum. This is a fairly good model, but unfortunately crazy Christians use it a lot. Don't let that put you off. You can learn pretty much whatever you want. As long as you have cooperative parents and can find a few other young people interested in similar things then this model can work well. Within the general boundaries of the curriculum one can study a wide range of material at a pace that suits you. The downside is that you have to be motivated and it can get boring at times. When I homeschooled, I worked for no more than 2 or 3 hours a day and spent much of the rest of my time reading. Deschooling can tie in with various careers and many deschoolers in the United States get jobs in or spend time working in the field they want to work in when they grow up e.g. working part time as a vet.

Correspondence

This is similar to deschooling but you have a fixed curriculum, this can be good in providing structure and keeping you focused but may be inflexible and the coursework may not be particularly interesting. A real upside to this is that you may have a wider range of subjects to choose from and you can work through them faster or slower than you would at school. Correspondence also requires motivation and may be solitary, but it can give you much more freedom over how you spend your time and what you learn.

Working

If you are 16 or older you can quit school and work full time. If you can get a good job and don't need many qualifications this can save a year or two of mucking around at school. As a plus you get an income and get to work in a job you choose. On the downside with limited qualifications there is a risk of getting stuck in low paid jobs.

Courses

There are quite a few bridging qualifications and certificates and diplomas which you can get into at 16, if your marks are good enough you can even get into university at the end of 6th form (or earlier if you get put ahead). Polytechnics can be a good place to get started if you are thinking about leaving school when you're 16. You can get a diploma out of the way and still be able to get into university at 18.

Going at it alone

If you want to completely break out of the education system and not go into employment or further education good luck and have fun! If you have goals and know what you want then don't let your teachers, parents or friends hold you back. This is the only life you will ever have, why spend it trying to fit into a box? Being an artist, gardener volunteering or spending your time protesting are legitimate things to be doing and can certainly be more productive than sitting in an office all day selling your time to someone you hate.

Dropping out can be one of the most stressful experiences you go through and good research and a clear idea of what you will do once you leave is a great help. Good luck and have fun.

Useful resources:

Websites

<http://www.home.school.nz/>

<http://www.correspondence.school.nz/>

<http://www.getfreedropout.tk/> **Youth Liberation Resources**

<http://www.crimethinc.com/downloads/drop.html> **Web zine of one student's experiences**

<http://www.school-survival.net/> **site dedicated to surviving and living without school**

Books

Deschooling Society by Ivan Illich - essays on the real purpose of schools

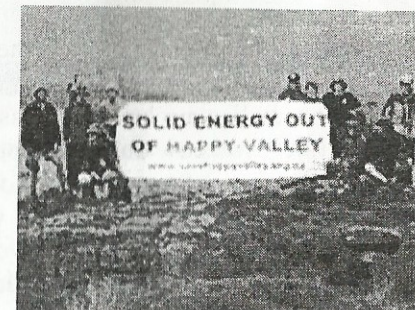
Teenage Liberation Handbook by Grace Llewellyn - A guide to leaving school

The Underground History of American Education: An Intimate Investigation into the Problem of Modern Schooling by John Taylor Gatto



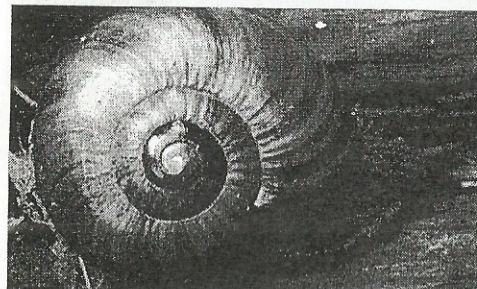
SAVE HAPPY VALLEY!

A spectacular place on the west coast of South Island is a wetland called "Happy Valley". It's a pristine environment supporting native species like the Great Spotted Kiwi, the *Powelliphanta 'patrickensis'* snail, fernbirds and weka. There are also many other endemic flora and fauna that has never been studied before. Happy Valley is an intricate and fragile wetland ecosystem - it should be treated like the national treasure it is.



But how much longer will it be here for? Solid Energy, a state-owned coal company has been given resource consent to mine this beautiful place. The conditions of the consent include 'relocating' the wetlands and removing the kiwi and snails to another place. In the process of this, it was admitted that up to 10 kiwi and 100 snails may die. These are protected and endangered species! Wetlands relocation has never worked in the past. It was once tried in Zurich, Switzerland but it failed.

Not only will the mine threaten native species and destroy their habitat, it will also contribute to the changing climate. Solid Energy plans to extract five million tonnes of coal from the valley. If burned, 12 million tonnes of carbon dioxide will be discharged into the atmosphere, speeding up the process of global warming. Climate change can no longer be denied. It's happening right now. The ice caps are melting and sea levels are rising. Sooner or later, everyone will be feeling its effects. It is estimated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that by 2050, there will be 150 million climate change refugees and one-third of the world's species will be extinct!



We need to stop this! As inhabitants of the Earth, we have the responsibility to take care of our planet. Stopping Solid Energy's coal mine is a solid step towards protecting the natural environment and our futures from climate chaos. The construction of the mine has not yet started and there's an ongoing occupation in the valley to stop the mine. I encourage everyone to get involved with the Save Happy Valley campaign and do what you can to stop this disgusting coal mine. It's up to people like you and me to act and say NO to Solid Energy's mine for a better future for the whole planet and its inhabitants.

For more information on how you can help: www.savehappyvalley.org.nz

YOUR RIGHTS WITH THE POLICE

A BASIC GUIDE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE POLICE

We all need to know our rights with the police 'cause we've all had our run-ins with them, whether it's at a party, just walking down the street or on a demonstration. Police are known to hassle young people in particular. Because we are less likely to know our rights, police feel less intimidated by us and they want to teach us at a young age not to mess with the cops. When we are faced with being hassled by the police we are often put on the spot so it's important to familiarise yourself and your friends with these basic rights so you'll be able to keep yourself and friends safe.

THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

If the police are hassling you and they aren't asking you your name, date of birth or address, just walk away and say nothing. **You only have to tell the police three things your name, address and date of birth.** If you do not tell the police these three things they can arrest you. You don't have to go anywhere with the police unless arrested so always ask, 'am I under arrest?' If their answer is no and you have told them the three things, you have the right to walk away. If the answer is Yes ask 'on what charge?'

You also have the right to know your rights. **If you ask a police officer for all your rights, they must tell you.**

SEARCHES

If the police try to search you on the street you have the right to refuse. You must say **'I DO NOT CONSENT TO A SEARCH. WHAT IS YOUR LAWFUL AUTHORITY?'** If you do not refuse this is seen as allowing the police to search you. If they claim they are searching you under the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA). Ask their reason for thinking you were using or have drugs. **If you are a female only a female officer can search you.**

HAVING EVIDENCE FOR COURT

Police must let you know their name and badge number if they arrest you. It's good to remember this so if a particular officer mistreats you, you can identify them in court. Their identification number is displayed on a black disc on their

shoulders. You should write down what happened as soon as you can before you forget anything. Often court dates are months after the incident. You want to make sure you and your friends are clear on what happened.

AT THE POLICE STATION

If you are arrested you have the right to speak to a free lawyer. You will find this lawyer on the Bill of Rights list, available at the police station.

If you are under 17:

-You have the right to have any adult of your choice at the police station with you.

- You have the right to talk to your lawyer guardian or supportive adult in private (without police hearing what you say) at the police station.

At the station you must give your name, address, date of birth, and occupation. You don't have to say anything else. If you choose to make a statement at all this will be used against you in court. You have the right to know what kind of charge you are being arrested for.



NOTE: Security Guards do not have the same authority as police. They cannot physically touch you and they cannot tell you to stay somewhere.